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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/579,978	05/22/2006	Kazuhiro Yoshinaga	2006-0777A	3733

513 7590 07/20/2007
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.
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SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

HENRY, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1623

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/20/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/579,978	YOSHINAGA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michael C. Henry	1623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/10/06. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elsser et al. (WO 02/26060 A1).

In claim 1, applicant claims “A method for producing ascopyrone P, which comprises heating a solution of 1,5-D-anhydrofructose at a pH of 10 or less and a temperature of 100°C or higher.” Claims 2-5 are drawn to said method wherein the heating is conducted at specific temperatures, for specific time and specific pH. Claims 6-7 are drawn to said method wherein the heating is conducted in the presence of an antioxidant and wherein the antioxidants are selected acids or their salts.

Elsser et al. disclose a method for producing ascopyrone P, which comprises heating a solution of 1,5-D-anhydrofructose with non-aqueous acid at an elevated temperature, for example of 70°C (see page 9, line 31 to page 10, line 1).

The difference between applicant’s claimed method and the method of Elsser et al. is the temperature and the fact that Elsser et al. do not disclose the pH of the solution. However, Elsser et al. disclose that an elevated temperature (which includes the temperatures claimed by applicant) can be used and the pH of Elsser et al. solution may

well be the same as applicant's (i.e., at a pH of less than 10) especially since Elsser et al. 1,5-D-anhydrofructose is treated with non-aqueous acid. Furthermore, a skilled artisan would be motivated to modify the physical parameters used in Elsser et al.'s method such as temperature, pH and time in order to optimize the process conditions and physical variables such as amounts, % yield and/or purity of product produced (i.e., ascopyrone P). It should be noted that merely modifying the process conditions such as temperature and concentration is not a patentable modification absent a showing of criticality. In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 105 U.S.P.Q. 233 (C.C.P.A. 1955).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the claimed invention was made, to have used the method of Elsser et al. to produce ascopyrone P and to alter the physical parameters used in Elsser et al.'s method such as temperature and pH in order to use it as an antioxidant or antibacterial, based on factors such as availability, cost, convenience and/or need.

One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use the method of Elsser et al. to produce ascopyrone P and to alter the physical parameters used in Elsser et al.'s method such as temperature and pH in order to use it as an antioxidant or antibacterial, based on factors such as availability, cost, convenience and/or need. It should be noted that it is obvious to use any acid such as or including applicant's claimed antioxidant, ascorbic acid, since Elsser et al. disclose that acid can be used.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Henry whose telephone number is 571-272-0652. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30am-5pm; Mon-Fri. If attempts to

reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shaojia A. Jiang can be reached on 571-272-0627. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael C. Henry



Shaojia Anna Jiang, Ph.D.
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1623

July 16, 2007.